1: McGee E-5 (1894-1895)1898 NU31 Seri NU31

approaching nubility—receive some advantage through the connivance of the matrons. To a considerable extent in the matter of sustentation, and to a dominant degree in the matter of apparelling, the distribution of values is affected by a highly significant (though by no means peculiar) humanitarian notion of inherent individual rights—i. e., every member of the family or clan is entitled to necessary food and raiment, and it is the duty of every other person to see that the need is supplied. The stress of this duty is graded partly by proximity (so that, other things equal, it begins with the nearest person), but chiefly by standing and responsibility in the group (which again are reckoned as equivalents of age), whereby it becomes the business of the first at the feast to see that enough is left to supply all below him; and this duty passes down the line in such wise as to protect the interests of the helpless infant, and even of the tribal good-for-naught or hanger on, who may gather crumbs and lick bones within limits fixed by the tribal consensus. Beyond these limits lies outlawry; and this status arises and passes into the tribal recognition in various ways: Kolusio was outlawed for consociating with aliens, and Mashem narrowly missed the same fate at several stages of his career; the would-be grooms who fail in their moral tests are ostracized and at least semioutlawed, and range about like rogue elephants, approved targets for any arrow, until they perish through the multiplied risks of solitude, or until some brilliant opportunity for display of prowess or generosity brings reinstatement; deformed offspring are classed as outside the human pale, even when the deformity is deemed rather by occult associations than by physical features; abnormal and persistent indolence, too serious for scorn and ostracism to cure, may also outpass the tribal toleration; and, as indicated by Mashem's guarded expressions and slight additional data, disease, mental aberration, and decrepitude are allied with indolence and deemed sufficient reason for excluding the persistently helpless from the tribal solidarity, and hence from recognized humanity—and the fate of the outlaw, even if nothing more severe than abandonment in the desert, is usually sure and swift. The entire customs of outlawry among the Seri are singularly like those of gregarious animals, including especially kine and swine in domestication. Now, studied equity in the distribution of necessaries might seem to be allied to thrift; but it is noteworthy that this is not so among the Seri, who take thought for one another but not for the morrow, who seem to have no conception of storage (save an incipient one in connection with water and the repulsive notion underlying the "second harvest"), and who habitually gorge everything in sight until their stomachs and gullets are packed—and then waste the fragments.

The division of labor which affects proprietary interests is undoubtedly affected in turn by the militant habit of the tribe and by the frequent decimation of the warriors. In general, the adult males limit their work to fighting and fishing, with occasional excursions into the hunt

3:Davis & Dawson E-5 (1922-1940) 1945
NU31 Seri NU31

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[732]

FIG. 17. SERI BLIND MAN
BEING LED BY A BOY. NOTE THE CRUDE SHELTER OF POLES AND BRUSH SERVING AS AN ARU DWELLING.

231 destitute of nourishment, tough and strong as rawhide; but hope springs eternal in an Indian dog's stomach, and again and again he will search out and mouth the same old pelican bone or fish head, discouraged never. The dogs, beside keeping the camp clean, lick all the cooking utensils when they are not tended, and also are allowed to lick clean the infants after they have performed their natural defecations. A Seri girl was seen placing [312] a small can of water for a dog to drink from, afterward drinking some of the remainder herself and then pouring the rest back into the family five-gallon can.

732 Although the conditions of existence for
734 the Seris had from time immemorial been too precarious to permit of anyone living who was unable by physical disability to hunt or fish to get his meat, there were two or three men, blind or nearly so, whose wives got an uncertain living for them by the hardest struggle (Fig. 17). If a Seri, however, became ill of a disease which the tribe feared, he was often taken into the desert and left with a little food and water, either to get well and return or to perish.

[p: 265(A)]

10: Davis E-5 (1922-ca.1939) 1965 NU31 Seri NU31

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Alverto Mendoza and Lupe Astorga getting water from cactus - used for cooking

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Child leading Petra - blind woman, Kino Bay - 1936

123 484 Then Chico Romero and his load of children and dogs arrived and he unloaded his impedimenta on the beach, and soon the women came walking along the beach and joined the party. The boats carrying the heavy things and children; the women, with their babies and a few light things on their heads, walk along the beach when possible and follow the boats, which hug the shore to avoid the strong currents and tide. The boats are propelled by paddles mostly, though some of the Indians use oars. The women are slightly built, slender and inclined to be gaunt, owing to the hard life and lack of food. Their cheek bones are quite prominent and their profiles present protruding lips.

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432 [364] Having no permanent homes, moving hither and thither for their various food supply, household things are not accumulated and life is reduced to its very simplest elements and absolute necessities.

Crude baskets made from shoots of the torote tree, vessels in which to cook, and some patched rags in place of Pelican skins to serve as blankets to the fortunate few, constitute the family possessions. Strange to relate, many of the women have an over-supply of milk, and according to Roberto have puppies nurse what the babies cannot take. One woman was known to nurse a baby pig on one side and a puppy on the other.

231 [958]

[264] [804] Family dogs lick all cooking vessels which is unnecessary as they are thoroughly clean when the Seris are through with them, and also lick the infants clean after performing their natural functions, so they are quite indispensable. I saw a Seri girl place on the sand a small can of water for a dog and then saw her drink some of the remainder and pour the rest back in a five-gallon can. Dogs frequently swim across the Infernillo to join their masters.

732 Asked about cripples and incompetents, Roberto said they probably did not exist. The conditions of survival were too precarious to admit of anyone living who was unable, by physical disability, to hunt or fish. There are two or three men who are nearly blind or so. The wives of these men eke an uncertain living for them by the hardest struggle. The sea turtle is the staple; one man and one good boat can secure a living for five families. There are now nine boats, but one boat to a family would practically free them from continual want. With the exception of four bones in the flippers and the bones of the head, all the sea turtle is used---the meat, blood, entrails, shell which furnishes food and oil, skin of flippers which furnishes sandals, sinew for strings. Nothing is wasted except contents of the entrails.

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123 Again, we laid our blankets on the clean white sand of the shore and were lulled to rest by the murmuring sea.

123 484 Daylight found us up the next morning, and we breakfasted, rolled up our blankets, pushed the boats into the sea and were off by the time the sun rose over the mountains and shone over a glassy sea. Two Seris towed their boat by a tump line, while a boy of twelve steered